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35. (Amended) A liquid-based medium incorporating the particulate composition as claimed in claim *26*, said liquid medium comprising a surface coating composition, a surface cleaning composition, a sealant composition, a tiling composition, a grouting composition and a drilling mud.

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44. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim *43* in which the biocide is an isothiazolone.

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45. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim *43* in which the particles used are effective to reduce degradation of the biocide to such an extent that at least 60% of the biocide is detectable when the biocide-containing particles are subjected to UV exposure using a 500 W high pressure mercury/tungsten lamp operating at a temperature of 50°C and a relative humidity of 50% and/or thermal ageing for at least 40 days in an incubator at 60°C.

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46. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim *43* in which the particles used are effective to reduce degradation of the biocide to such an extent that at least 80% of the biocide is detectable when the biocide-containing particles are subjected to UV exposure using a 500 W high pressure mercury/tungsten lamp operating at a temperature of 50°C and a relative humidity of 50% and/or thermal ageing for at least 40 days in an incubator at 60°C.

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See the attached Appendix for the changes made to effect the above claims.

Please add the following new claims:

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49. (New) A method as claimed in claim *44*, wherein said isothiazolone is at least one of 2-methyl-4-isothiazolone, 2-ethyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, 2-propyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, 2-butyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, 2-amyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, 5-chloro-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, 5-bromo-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, 5-iodo-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, 5-chloro-2-butyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, 5-bromo-2-ethyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, 5-iodo-2-amyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, 1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one, 2-n-octyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, or 4,5-dichloro-2-n-octyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one.

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50. (New) A composition as claimed in claim ~~26~~²⁴ in which the inorganic carrier particles are Y-zeolites with, optionally, amorphous silicas, dealuminated Y-zeolites or mixtures of two or more of these.

49
51. (New) A composition as claimed in claim ~~26~~²⁴ in which the inorganic carrier particles are dealuminated Y-zeolites with, optionally, amorphous silicas, Y-zeolites, or mixtures of two or more of these.--